



# NLG NEWSLETTER

Quarterly Publication of the Numismatic Literary Guild Inc.

Volume 28, No. 2

Spring 1996

## IMPORTANT!

### 1996 WRITERS' COMPETITION DEADLINE JUNE 20, 1996

Because the 1996 American Numismatic Association convention is scheduled for mid-August, contestants should note these deadlines:

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NOT LATER THAN JUNE 20, 1996, AND MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE JUDGES NOT LATER THAN JUNE 25, 1996. Remember the Contest

Address: Scott Travers, c/o NGC, 7 Century Drive, Parsippany NJ 07054.



### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK...BY DAVID T. ALEXANDER

NLG's busiest time is upon us once again!

The annual Writers Competition, whose rules appear in this issue of the NLG Newsletter, will be bringing the best of American, Canadian and hopefully international numismatic writing to the fore.

Our rules are much as they were when Abe Kosoff drafted the basic outline at the request of then-Executive Director Virginia Culver. Regrettably, both of those veteran Guild officers are now in that great pressroom in the sky, but their basic method continues to guide NLG

Over the years, some writers have criticized the method of submission adopted in 1978, though none have come forward with truly workable alternatives. Two prominent researchers in recent years were emphatic in their demand that NLG create a panel

that would select articles from all accessible publications and then present them to the judges. When they were invited to lead such a panel, both of these worthy critics promptly declined.

It is possible that some better method may one day be found, along with willing and able workers to implement it. Until then, our existing method has served us well and will undoubtedly continue to do so in the future.

This year, all have plenty of warning on deadlines. May I suggest that all participants remember another vital component: Fill out those cover sheets — the judges will bless you! Running the contest these days is an amazingly large undertaking, and contestants owe it to all the volunteer judges to submit the needed paperwork. Go for it!

A note to those who submitted articles in recent weeks: We thank

you and will be running your submissions as soon as this issue completes its mission. More space will be available after the contest rules are in the mail.

Good luck to all our 1996 contestants!

### REMEMBRANCES

by David T. Alexander

NLG has lost several members, friends and supporters since the last ANA convention. In a world that offers so few true friends, their loss is grievous. We pause here to remember them in writing and will cherish all in our hearts.

**OSCAR H. DODSON**, Rear Admiral U.S.N. (Ret.), Past President ANA, Jan. 22, 1996. Born in Houston, Texas, in 1905, he joined the U.S. Navy after graduation from Annapolis and

*Cont. on page 4.*





## FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

By Ed Reiter

Spring has sprung, birds are on the wing — and writers and editors are scurrying around to get their entries ready for the annual NLG Writers' Competition.

I never fail to be amazed at Guild members' great enthusiasm for our contest. Every year, hundreds of entries pour into our reception center, where they are separated by category and sent off to our brigade of volunteer judges. (The extent of this outpouring became dramatically clear to me several years ago, when my own dining room served as the reception center.)

The rules for the 1996 contest are published in this issue of the Newsletter, and I urge you to review them before submitting any entries. The categories and entry requirements are virtually unchanged from last year, so those of you who have entered in the past should have no problem following the guidelines.

Once again, we are requiring three copies of each entry — including each book entry. This can be inconvenient (and relatively expensive) for some book entrants, but it is essential because we need one copy of each entry — including each book — for each judge.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Each entry must be accompanied by a cover sheet providing information specified in the rules. And since each entry must be submitted in triplicate, there must be three cover sheets — one for each copy of the entry. Anyone who fails to abide by this requirement will be subject to disqualification. Failure to provide sufficient cover sheets really does create tremendous extra work for the contest coordinator and his assistants, and I will be fully supportive if he — and they — choose to disqualify any violator.

Entries must be postmarked by June 20 and received by June 25. And the material contained in those entries must have been published between May 1, 1995, and April 30, 1996.

We are fortunate indeed to have the services of Scott Travers again this year as contest coordinator. Scott has done a spectacular job in this capacity over the last five years, not only overseeing the judging with unparalleled efficiency and impartiality but also making sure that the handsome award plaques are ready and waiting for all the happy winners at the Bash.

We are fortunate, too, that the Numismatic Guaranty Corporation of America (NGC) has agreed once again to serve as the reception point for the entries. Receiving and storing the boxes full of entries can be a tedious job — yet it's also a sensitive one, and NGC has been gracious indeed in making its facilities available to us in recent years.

Entries should be sent to Scott Travers, c/o NGC, 7 Century Drive, Parsippany, NJ 07054.

Good luck to all — and congratulations to everyone for all the

fine work we've witnessed in the last 12 month As far as we're concerned, you're all winners!

\* \* \* \* \*

Spring is also election time here at NLG. And while our elections tend to be much friendlier than those between the Democrats and Republicans, they're still extremely important to the Guild's continued vitality.

We've been extremely fortunate to have the services — and always sound advice — of some truly exceptional members on our Board of Directors in recent years. Two of the all-time finest, Q. David Bowers and Margo Russell,

## NLG NEWSLETTER

Since 1968, the official  
publication of the  
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Literary Guild, Inc.

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are now reaching the end of their second two-year terms and therefore cannot stand for reelection. Replacing Dave and Margo is surely a daunting task, but we're confident there are excellent candidates ready to rise to the occasion. We are seeking nominations at this time. Any candidate who receives three or more nominations will be placed on a ballot and this will then be mailed to the membership, with the two highest vote-getters being elected.

Nominations should be sent to me as follows: Ed Reiter, 12 Abbington Ter., Glen Rock, NJ 07452. To avoid confusion, the deadline for nominations is the same as the one for contest entries: They must be postmarked by June 20 and received by June 25.

The next issue of the Newsletter is scheduled for publication shortly before the Denver convention of the American Numismatic Association. It will contain advance information on our Bash and symposium.

Anyone interested in participating in this year's Bash, or providing material for the show, is asked to submit a brief description outlining the nature of the role he or she would like to play. Our Bashes tend to be unscripted and spontaneous, but we'd love to expand the circle of participants — and a little advance planning seems like a good way to incorporate and harness some of the new talent we know is just waiting to be discovered!

Those of you with time on your hands and article ideas in your mind are asked to consider submitting some of those stories to David T. Alexander, our dynamic Newsletter editor. Dave has done a remarkable job of generating material for this publication since

he assumed the editorial reins last year, but he could do an even better job if he had more articles, letters, etc., to work with.

On the subject of the Newsletter, I'd like to tip my hat to Michael and Diana Sedgwick for their first-rate work in preparing the last few issues for publication and seeing them through the crucial days of printing and delivery. Anyone who has worked with Michael and Diana in their capacity as publicists for the British Royal Mint can attest to their dedication and attention to detail, but I've gained an even greater appreciation for these qualities since working with them on the Newsletter.

Anyone still in arrears on 1996 dues should bring the ledger up to date as soon as possible, before our super-efficient treasurer, Kay Lenker, mobilizes her bloodhounds. I've seen Kay stalk her prey — and believe me, it isn't a pretty sight!

Anyone who still has a balance in the bank after paying those dues might consider investing \$25 in our beautiful one-ounce, .999-fine-silver 25th anniversary medal — the only precious-metal collectible ever issued by the Guild. While limited supplies remain, we are offering this attractive medal PLUS a copy of our 50-page silver anniversary booklet for a special combination price of \$25 postpaid. (Postage is additional for orders outside the United States and Canada.) Orders and checks should be sent to Ed Reiter, 12 Abbington Ter., Glen Rock, NJ 07452.

That's it for this edition. See you next issue — and in Denver!

## FROM THE BOOK STACKS

*Recent Numismatic Literature in Review. Opinions expressed are those of the reviewers, not necessarily of the Numismatic Literary Guild*

### CIVIL WAR ENCASED POSTAGE STAMPS

*The Issuers and their Times, by Fred L. Reed III, 551 numbered pages, profusely illustrated. BNR Press, Port Clinton, Ohio.*

1995. \$60 retail cover price.

Reviewed by David T. Alexander.

For centuries, numismatic specialists have poured out labors of love, books ranging from Roman medallions to the varieties of U.S. gold coins, but few efforts of the past can match the sheer volume of research or the number of years required to produce *That New Metallic Currency, Civil War Encased Postage Stamps*, which rolled off the BNR Presses last autumn.

This reviewer does not collect these fascinating brass, mica and paper bits of Civil War history, though he has cataloged many for leading auction firms. He has been aware of Fred L. Reed's book since the 1970s, however, going back to the author's years chained to an adjacent oar in that great galley of numismatic writing, the editorial offices of *Coin World*.

The new Reed work had a gestation period of some 15 years. Reed is arguably the best-prepared author in decades to tackle such a chore, based on his years of study of Civil War tokens, medalets of Boston die-sinker Joseph Merriam and his unequalled feat of reading every line of the *Journal of the Confederate Congress*.

*Cont. on page 9.*



Remembrances cont. from page 1.

served in the exciting era of the China-Japan war of the 1930s on the China Station. He began collecting coins in 1933. Any collector who was privileged to hear his colorful reminiscences of coinage in the China of the troubled 1930s quickly realized that here was an historian of real ability as well as a numismatist.

He pressed ahead in his collecting endeavors even after his first collection went down with the torpedoed USS Hornet in World War II. He served on the United States Assay Commission in 1948, and was a stalwart of the Old-Time Assay Commissioners Society (OTACS) ever after. He served ANA as a board member for nine years and was its president in 1957-61.

He joined NLG at its founding

and took an active role in the Guild's early years. His charming wife Polly was one of Margo Russell's song-dance-comedy troupe "The Girls" throughout its widely applauded career. He was founder and longtime director of the National Bank of Detroit Money Museum. The admiral's career gave him a rich trove of colorful material for his more than 400 lectures, some of which were preserved in his book, *Money Tells the Story*. He was contributing editor of *COINage* magazine 1973-87.

In later years, the admiral was an educator closely associated with the University of Illinois at Champaign, serving as director of the school's acclaimed World Heritage Museum, which he enriched with a complete set of the fine art medals of the Society of Medalists. A little-noted insight into his role as a fraternalist was

his hosting of several ANA convention meetings of his fellow Numismatic Rotarians. He was truly an example of the officer and gentleman... and friend of numismatics.

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**MICHAEL J. DRUCK**, writer and professional numismatist, president of the New York Numismatic Club, Aug. 17, 1995. Mike, as he was known to his many friends and co-workers, was a lifelong collector. He was active for many years in the American Israel Numismatic Association (AINA) and the ANA, and was a Fellow of the American Numismatic Society in his native New York City. His writings won awards from organizations in both the U.S. and Great Britain.



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(published weekly - ave. 98 pgs.)



At the time of his death, Mike was serving as president of the prestigious New York Numismatic Club, and his sculptured portrait by Eugene Daub appeared on the latest of the club's presidential medals, a series dating to 1909.

As my appreciation of Mike noted in *Coin World*: Michael battled the scourge of hemophilia, the hereditary and incurable blood disease, throughout his life. Modern medicine made it possible for him to hold his own until the early 1980s. About two years ago, Mike went public in a page-1 *New York Times* story including his photograph. The *Times* article described the tragedy of an estimated 10,000 hemophiliacs who had been given transfusions or had used vitally needed blood products tainted with the AIDS virus. Of that number, more than 8,000 have already died. Mike was active in a class action suit against the major pharmaceutical companies which they charged had refused to irradiate such blood well after the discovery that it carried the deadly virus. Mike and many hemophiliacs were outraged that the American Hemophilia Foundation had failed to insist on such irradiation, placing much of the blame squarely on the very non-profit foundation that was supposed to be their advocate.

Mike began law school study at night to prepare himself for an active role in the class action suit. His sheer willpower and determination were often noted by his devoted mother Barbara. This strength of will brought to mind Dylan Thomas' lines, "Do not go gentle into that good night... burn and rave at close of day; rage, rage against the dying of the light..." At the time of his death, Mike was 34.

**RALPH HOLMES**, past president of the Society of Philatelists and Numismatists (SPAN). An active promoter of the Philatelic-Numismatic Combination or PNC for more than 28 years, he was a longtime member of both NLG and ANA.

Holmes was SPAN's "PNC Hobby Goodwill Ambassador" and was awarded its "Man of the Year" award in 1976. His numismatic interests were by no means limited to PNC's, as those who met him at so many ANA events and the many club midways at conventions will testify. He was a loyal member of NLG and a sincere friend to the Guild.

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**JOHN JAY PITTMAN**, ANA past president and numismatic leader, Feb. 17, 1996. Few Americans in this century could boast the level of achievement of John J. Pittman, a member of most significant numismatic organizations. He was the only individual to serve simultaneously as American Numismatic Association and Canadian Numismatic Association president, while enjoying an honorary presidency of the Sociedad Numismatica de Mexico.

One of a handful of Americans able to attend the famous Cairo auction of the King Farouk Collection ("Palace Collections of Egypt") in 1954, he was as much at home with British, Latin American and South African numismatists as he was his American and Canadian confreres. He was deeply skilled in that great "international language" that bridges continents, numismatics.

It was this writer's pleasure to chat with John J. Pittman not only at many ANA conventions but at state and regional shows from Indianapolis to Miami Beach. I recall a discussion several years long about the identity of the "CT" on the 1870 pattern coinage of the Republic of Cuba. Neither of us were ever fully satisfied that it was Carlos Torretti of the Potosi, Bolivia, Mint. We never did settle the question, but the debate was wonderfully stimulating.

His reminiscences of the often stormy history of ANA were priceless in themselves and his extraordinary grasp of U.S. and world history made him a formidable conversationalist. In this regard, I feel certain we can say of John J. Pittman what Ben Jonson said of Shakespeare: "We shall not see his like again."

His collection, at least the visible part of it, was the stuff of legend. Only its auction by David W. Akers will reveal its full extent. Fascinated convention goers got some small idea of its scope from the astonishing rarities he regularly exhibited at ANA gatherings, which certainly proved that his collecting activity was on a grand scale in both exceptional quantity and amazingly high quality.

I doubt that there were many NLG Bashes that John J. Pittman missed. He made many a contribution to the conviviality of NLG events, and the cheerfulness of his wife Gehring was always a delightful "plus."

**I am sure all NLG members join me in extending our deepest sympathies to the families of all these lamented friends, "Till we meet again..."**





# 1996 NLG WRITERS' COMPETITION RULES



*Welcome to this year's  
NLG competition!*

Please read these rules carefully if you wish to participate in the contest.

1. All NLG members are eligible to participate if their dues have been paid.
2. All entries must have been published between May 1, 1995, and April 30, 1996.
3. Entries must be postmarked not later than June 20, 1996, and received by June 25, 1996.
4. All entries must be the work of entrant or must have been produced under entrant's editorial direction.
5. The judges reserve the right to change the category in which an entry may compete, if they believe such change is necessary to assure equity of all participants.
6. Three (3) copies of each entry must be submitted in all categories except portfolio. In the latter category, one copy will suffice. Quality photocopies of newspaper and magazine articles are acceptable.
7. No entries will be returned under any circumstance.
8. No entrant may submit more than one (1) entry in any single category. (The same entry may also be included in the Portfolio competition, however.)
9. In categories with only one entry, judges may decide that no award will be given, or may substitute Special NLG

Recognition for the regular NLG Award.

10. All judges' decisions are binding and final; confidentiality of all judging is absolute.
11. Failure to conform to all rules will be cause for disqualification from the competition.
12. All entries must be sent to:

Scott Travers  
c/o NGC  
7 Century Drive  
Parsippany, NJ 07054

13. Each entry copy must have the following information attached or it will be disqualified:
  - CLASS
  - CATEGORY
  - ENTRANT'S NAME & ADDRESS
  - PUBLICATION
  - PUBLICATION DATE
  - TITLE OR HEADING
  - AUTHOR (IF OTHER THAN ENTRANT)

.....

*The following classes and  
categories are in force in 1996.*

PLEASE EXAMINE YOUR  
ENTRIES CAREFULLY to be certain  
they qualify in the proper category!

## CLASS I BOOKS

Books may be submitted by author, publisher or editor. Three copies must be submitted. Eligible are new books or those accepted by the judges at their sole discretion as substantially revised versions of earlier works.

### 1. BOOK OF THE YEAR

*The work having the greatest potential impact on numismatics:* Criteria include overall reader appeal, research quality, photographic, printing and graphic excellence, cover and typography where applicable. Books submitted in the specialized categories below may be considered for Book of the Year as well.

## 2. BEST SPECIALIZED BOOK ON

- a United States Coins
- b World Coins
- c U.S. Paper Money
- d World Paper Money
- e Tokens & Medals
- f Numismatic Investments
- g Museum & Exhibition Catalogs

## CLASS II-A

U.S. COMMERCIAL  
NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES  
(Coins, COINage magazines)

3. BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES (3) copies of articles dealing with:
  - a Coins
  - b Tokens & Medals
  - c Paper Money
4. BEST COLUMN (3) copies EACH of (3) selections from ongoing column must be submitted.
5. BEST ISSUE (3) copies of the issue submitted by publisher, editors. Criteria include overall numismatic appeal, features, departments, graphics, journalistic and editorial excellence as applicable.

## CLASS II-B

WORLD COMMERCIAL  
NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES  
(World Coin News, The Celator, similar overseas publications)

6. BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES (3) copies of articles dealing with:
  - a Coins
  - b Tokens & Medals
  - c Paper Money
7. BEST COLUMN (3) copies EACH of (3) selections from ongoing column must be submitted.
8. BEST ISSUE (3) copies of the issue submitted by publisher, editors. Same criteria as category 5 above.

## CLASS III

NON-PROFIT OR CLUB  
NUMISMATIC MAGAZINES

*Cont. on page 6.*



(The Numismatist, TAMS Journal, The Shekel, etc. NOTE: National publications will be judged separately from regional, state, and local publications.)

#### 9. **BEST ARTICLE**

(3) copies of articles dealing with: any subject related to numismatics

*(ONE Award)*

10. **BEST COLUMN** (3) copies EACH of (3) selections from ongoing column must be submitted.

11. **BEST ISSUE** (3) copies of the issue submitted by publisher and/or editor. Same criteria as category 5 above.

#### **CLASS IV**

##### NUMISMATIC NEWSPAPERS

12. **BEST SPOT NEWS STORY** or continuing coverage of a developing story in numismatics.

13. **BEST ARTICLE OR SERIES OF ARTICLES** (3) copies of articles dealing with:

a Coins

b Tokens & Medals

c Paper Money

14. **BEST COLUMN** (3) copies EACH of (3) selections from ongoing column must be submitted.

15. **BEST ISSUE** (3) copies of the issue submitted by publisher, editors. Same criteria as category 5 above.

#### **CLASS V**

##### NON-NUMISMATIC NEWSPAPERS

16. **THE MAURICE M. GOULD MEMORIAL AWARD**

Entries may be submitted by publisher, editor or columnist of any coin column appearing regularly in any non-numismatic newspaper of any size circulation.

#### **CLASS VI**

##### AUCTION CATALOGS

17. Submit (3) copies of each catalog entered. Criteria include

cover design, overall eye appeal, format, graphics and layout, in-depth research and quality of description. Entries may be submitted by auction firm, auctioneer or cataloger.

#### **CLASS VII**

##### COMMERCIAL PUBLICATIONS

18. **LEE MARTIN FOUNDER'S AWARD** for Best Investment Newsletter: Criteria include overall reader appeal, quality of research and writing, and graphics as applicable. Submit (3) copies EACH of (3) issues, total: 9 items.

19. **BEST DEALER-PUBLISHED** magazine or newspaper. Criteria include overall reader appeal, quality of research and writing, and graphics excellence. Submit (3) copies EACH of at least (3) different issues.

#### **CLASS VIII**

##### BEST ALL-AROUND PORTFOLIO

20. Collection of writings and/or photographs and related items demonstrating numismatic writing ability and versatility. **Organization and presentation will count as heavily as volume.** Only one copy of portfolio need be submitted; other copies of items included in portfolio may also be submitted in other relevant categories at entrant's option.

#### **CLASS IX**

##### BEST WRITER IN NLG NEWSLETTER

21. NLG Newsletter editor alone selects winner. Criteria include writing skill and style, numismatic or organization support, content to inform the member-readers. No entries accepted, editor alone decides.

#### **CLASS X**

##### AUDIO-VISUAL

22. **RADIO:** Best news story, feature report or continuing

series involving numismatics. Entries must include standard size audio cassette of story, feature report of (3) selections from continuing series, accompanied by written statement citing date(s) of broadcast, call letters and location of radio station as well as information required in NLG rules listed above.

23. **AUDIO:** Best audio program involving numismatics, but non-broadcast. **Includes audio tracks from numismatic slide shows, educational tapes, audio newsletters and other presentations.** Entries must include standard size audio cassette, written statement citing date(s) of first use, plus information required in NLG rules above.

24. **TELEVISION:** Best spot news story, feature report or continuing series involving numismatics. Entries must include standard size cassette recording of television broadcast or (3) selections from continuing series. Tape must be either half-inch VHS or 3/4-inch professional videocassette, and must be accompanied by written statement citing date(s) of broadcast, call letters and location of station, plus information required in NLG rules above.

25. **VIDEO:** Best non-broadcast slide film, movie film or video tape presentation involving numismatics. Entry must include audio as well as visual materials, either written script or sound track of film, audio or video cassette used in presentation. Entry must be accompanied by written statement citing date(s) of first use, plus information required by NLG rules above.

26. **CLEMENT F. BAILEY MEMORIAL AWARD.** First presented in the 1987 competition, this award was endowed by Jim Miller of Miller

*Cont. on page 8.*



Cont. from page 7.

Magazines in memory of an especially beloved member of the numismatic writing community and NLG founder, Clement F. Bailey. This award recognizes excellence among new writers in numismatics, whose first published writings appeared during the previous year. Nominees are supplied solely by numismatic publishers.

#### THE CLEMY AWARD

In a category of its own since 1968 is the Clemetry Award. The highest honor of NLG is bestowed annually during the NLG Bash on an NLG member in recognition of writing skill, dedication to numismatics, sense of humor and dedication to the

Numismatic Literary Guild. Nominations are submitted by members of the board to the previous year's winner, who makes the final choice.

#### ROLL OF HONOR CLEMY AWARD WINNERS 1968-1995

1968	Clement F. Bailey
1969	Edward C. Rochette
1970	Lee Martin
1971	Margo Russell
1972	Virginia Culver
1973	Maurice M. Gould
1974	Eva B. Adams
1975	Ray Byrne
1976	Chester L. Krause
1977	Richard S. Yeoman
1978	Lee F. Hewitt
1979	Abe Kosoff
1980	Glenn Smedley
1981	Arlie Slabaugh
1982	Eric P. Newman
1983	Kenneth Bressett

1984	Donn Pearlman
1985	Walter Breen
1986	Ed Reiter
1987	David Alexander
1988	James L. Miller
1989	Q. David Bowers
1990	David L. Ganz
1991	Clifford Mishler
1992	R.W. Julian
1993	Russell Rulau
1994	Elvira Clain-Stefanelli
1995	Beth Deisher



## 2 NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE FOLD

The turnaround time was small between the last Newsletter and the current one, so our list of new members is also smaller than usual. While it doesn't have much quantity, though, the roster has plenty of quality — for both of the two new members are major additions to our ranks! And both, by coincidence, hail from North Carolina.

Here, then, are the members of this spring's class:

**Robert Turfboer** of Greenville, N.C., a retired physician who is well known to hobbyists as co-author (with James O. Sweeny) of *Tempus in Nummus*, a superb work which was honored by the Guild in 1994 as Best Specialized Book on Foreign Coins. Dr. Turfboer also is the author of *Contemporary Numismatics*, a translation of a classic 1732 Dutch work by Gerard Van Loon. Sponsored by James O. Sweeny.

**James R. Barry** of Hampstead, N.C., a retired educator and prolific author whose articles have appeared in *The Numismatist*, *Coins Magazine*, *Rare Coin Review* and *The Centinel*. Sponsored by Q. David Bowers.

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From the Book Stacks cont. from page 3

All of this study provides the new book's rich background on "The Issuers and the Times." Invented and patented by Boston Yankee John Gault on Aug. 12, 1862, Encased Postage Stamps (EPS) have been collected for 134 years. It is amazing how little hard data were available to earlier catalogers, and even less to collectors. Most auction catalogs have used the EP numbers in Robert Friedberg's *Paper Money of the United States*, which remains the most widely used reference to U.S. paper currency.

Friedberg devotes three pages to EPS, with seven paragraphs of introductory material. Krause Publications' *Standard Catalog of United States Paper Money* offers an extensively illustrated five-page treatment of the series, with an introduction by Len Glazer. The most extensive treatment

before 1995 is *The Standard Catalogue of Encased Postage Stamps* by Michael J. Hodder and Q. David Bowers. This work is largely derived from background data Reed provided as consultant for Bowers & Merena auctions. The consultant receives star billing in a single mention on page 104 as "Frederick Reed."

Many collectors will zero in on the 32 chapters Reed devotes to individual EPS issuers, from Irving House to B.F. Miles. He compiled highly detailed listings of known EPS denominations and auction census data summaries covering the years 1891 to 1994. Reed provides a wealth of illustrative material, including bottles and other containers for products on EPS, postcards, *Harper's Weekly* pages, tokens, currency look-alike advertising pieces, bank checks and portraits of the issuers.

Of the greatest value to dealers

and collectors is Reed's examination of altered and counterfeit EPS through high-quality enlarged photography and a forthright text. Specimens illustrated include encasements pried open and resealed and examples of the "Romain" counterfeits that appeared to plague collectors during the 1960s.

His Appendix A provides a much-needed study of rarity and values in three grades for each issue and denomination, as well as listing of known institutional collections, including the American Numismatic Society and the Smithsonian Institution, a listing of issue-related collectibles and outstanding annotated bibliographies of auction sources, basic documents, numismatic books and general sources. His record of the pioneers of EPS collecting includes such figures as Hiram Deats, William Forrester

Cont. on page 10

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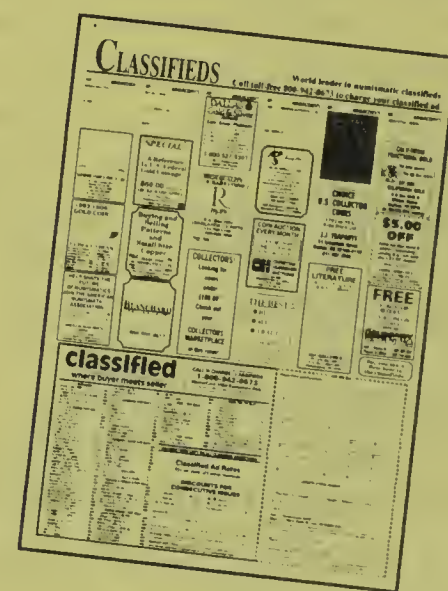
An easy-to-use form in every issue offers 52 free ad opportunities per year valued at \$286. Every week you'll find many new entries in all collecting categories that range from the common to the rare to the unusual.

Gary Clark of Indianapolis, IN writes of his experiences, "Thank you so very much for the free classified ad service. I hope all readers realize what a great opportunity this is! I place ads regularly and the responses have been very rewarding. Dozens of hassle-free transactions also attest to the quality and integrity of NUMISMATIC NEWS readers. Thanks to them as well!"

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*From the Book Stacks cont. from page 9*

Dunham, Josiah K. Lilly, John J. Ford Jr. and Arnold Pearl (whose collection was sold by Stack's in 1969 in one of the first modern landmark auctions of EPS).

While all parts of the book are of the utmost value and readability, it is possible to single out Reed's in-depth research on inventor John Gault as one of the most complete treatments ever achieved in American numismatic writing. "All you ever wanted to know about John Gault" might be a fitting subtitle, for Reed provides a vast store of technical and personal data, including the original patent papers — not only on EPS, but also on Gault's little-known inventions in the field of Civil War armaments. The photographs of Gault himself give an amazingly sharp impression of the determined inventor's personality.

Reed includes a final chapter, "Gault After Encased Postage," which clarifies the inventor's long subsequent career. He illustrates Gault's letter to presidential candidate Abraham Lincoln requesting a photo, from which he created an EPS-like ferrotype campaign token to join those of other candidates — including President Andrew Johnson — that Gault made with EPS technology for subsequent election contests.

It has long been known that Gault was bitterly disappointed over deprivation of the vast wealth he firmly believed the EPS should have brought him. Reed sketches his later career in the bustling New York City liquor trade down to his death in 1900. The flavor of Gault's later life is captured by one of Berenice Abbott's classic Depression-era photographs of the Murray Hill Hotel. After his death of Bright's

disease, John Gault's body was returned to his native Boston, where it lies buried under an imposing granite monument in Mount Auburn Cemetery. Reed followed his protagonist's story literally to the end.

*Civil War Encased Postage Stamps* is a book all serious numismatists should own, whether or not their collection includes EPS. Viewed as an example of dedicated research relentlessly pursued, of readable and well-crafted writing, the book is a "must." BNR Press should be justly proud to add this volume to its earlier prize-winning study on World War II numismatics as examples of the quality that supposedly smaller publishers can attain.

## WE GET LETTERS

*The Winter issue of the NLG Newsletter received much comment. We welcome members' input on all aspects and features of the Newsletter. There follow two stimulating expressions of opinion regarding material appearing in the last issue.*

**Editor, NLG Newsletter  
March 9, 1996**

I just received the Winter 1996 Newsletter. Congratulations on your receipt of the Numismatic Ambassador Award — you deserve it!

I enjoyed your "Candor or Discourtesy?" article. I remember well the feud between Breen and Cohen, as I was a friend of both, and it seems a shame to me that a significant portion of our memories of these productive men includes their negative approach to others. And, of course, the credibility of your unnamed critic

in an unnamed Colonial-related publication has been destroyed, at least in my mind, by the sufficiently negative (an understatement if I ever heard one) reviews bestowed upon employers and competitors alike. I only hope that the reputation of *The Colonial Newsletter*, where the unnamed critic has taken up residence, is not equally besotted. Gee, I find myself lapsing into a Hatfield-McCoy sort of mentality. Thanks for bringing me out of it with your excellent article.

Ron Guth  
La Jolla, CA.

**Editor, NLG Newsletter  
March 5, 1996**

I am writing about the mention of the late Roger Cohen's hate letter in the Winter NLG Newsletter. I worked with Roger on his books, and to a lesser degree with Walter Breen on his. Most of the pictures in both editions of Roger's book are mine, and a few of the ones in Walter's.

What Roger was upset about is the fact that Walter decided to write a book on Half Cents, and the news became public quite a while after Roger had been working on his. For a while it looked like a race between the two to see which book would hit the market first.

Working with both men, I had a chance to study them. Roger was more tractable. I made several suggestions for additional information, and he accepted them all. The rapid finder, the mating chart, and the inclusion of the Proof-only issues were some of the suggestions. I didn't try to mention anything to Walter, because his mind was completely made up. He did use some of the photos I



gave him. His book contains much more information than does Roger's, but I find Roger's easier to use.

One slight mistake in Walter's book almost cost me a nice sale. I had purchased the Bareford Half Cent collection, and had to sell some of them to help pay for the collection. I asked a very high price for the 1793 C-1, which was known as the finest 1793 ever seen. The customer called and said that Breen's book listed several C-1's as Choice Uncirculated, and mentioned that two of them were the Finest Known. He liked the coin I sent, but wanted a reduced price.

I wrote back to point out that the two coins he had mentioned were one and the same. Some place along the line, Walter had missed a connection in the ladder of ownership between the two. The customer agreed, and paid the price.

Another happening that seemed to show Walter's temperament occurred at a meeting of Early American Coppers (EAC) many years ago in Chicago. I could not find an example of an 1850 Large Cent (Newcomb 8) to check for the Rapid Finders I was writing. I wrote in *Pennywise* asking for any collector owning one to let me know. None did. I suggested that it might not exist. I tried to see the Newcomb 8 owned by the Starr family, but was turned down.

Shortly before the Chicago convention, Robbie Brown called, saying that he had acquired an example of the N-8. We made arrangements to meet in Chicago and study the coin. When we did study it, everything seemed fine. The coin met all of Newcomb's description, including the strong doubling at the top of the R in

LIBERTY. The coin received a coat of lacquer. Checking the doubling very carefully with a seven-power glass, I noticed that the doubling included the top of the R and part of its curve. Then a sharp line ran over to the top of the T. It became obvious that a bristle used to apply the lacquer had come loose. As the brush ran along the top of the R, the bristle followed the top perfectly. As the brush went to the top of the T, so did the bristle.

Robbie and I looked for the 1850 Cent which most closely matched the N-8. It turned out to be N-9. We checked the coin against the description of N-9 and it matched perfectly, as long as you ignored the doubling (or the bristle). Robbie and I both decided that the coin was N-9, with a bristle from the lacquer brush following the top of R, then running over the top of T. We also felt that this was the coin Newcomb had seen.

We found Walter Breen, showed him the coin, and told him of our conclusions. He said, "This is not N-9," returned the coin to us, turned and left. I changed the notes on 1850 to eliminate N-8 before I gave them to Bob Grellman, and the variety is not described in the Grellman book.

All of this has nothing to do with your stories. I read them as often as possible. I hope you don't take my remarks as being anti-Walter. We got along fine. At every ANA convention, we had at least one meal together. He sent manuscripts of most of his books, and I sent him any comments. When Jack Collins, Walter's good friend, wrote that my 1794 Dollar was exactly like the Robison coin, I said that it couldn't have been, that I owned it much before the Robison sale.

I looked for the Robison coin, and found it in the Woody Blevins collection. I borrowed it, and checked the two coins with Eric Newman and Walter at the Atlanta ANA Convention. The three of us agreed that one of the two coins had to have been copied from the other. All three of us agreed that mine had to be the copy. The two coins were also checked by Richard Doty, Jim Matthews, Jack Collins and Clifford Mishler, all of whom agreed with the verdict.

I bought the Blevins coin in his auction, and hope that they stay together always. Incidentally, both coins were sent to be authenticated by ANACS, and both received good certificates.

I surely have rambled. Iona says I talk too much. Hope to see you soon.

Jules Reiver  
Wilmington, DE.



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to seeing you in  
Denver**



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